A LETTER TO THE COMMONS and CITIZENS OF THE CITY of *DUBLIN*.

DUBLINI

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A

LETTER

TO THE

Commons and Citizens, &c.

FRIENDS *and* FELLOW-CITIZENS,

I FIND, it has ſeemed expedient to your *Taſk-Maſters*, the Board of *Aldermen*, or rather the CONCLAVE of CARDINALS of this infatuated City; to call you, Gentlemen of the COMMONS, together.

As I underſtand the Purport of your Meeting is a Matter of the utmoſt Conſequence to you and to Poſterity; I think it incumbent on me, to ſtep a little out of my Way, in order to offer you ſome cautionary Hints upon this Occaſion.

I HAVE long looked upon *Poſt-Aſſemblies*, which were not appointed by Adjournment of the *Quarter Aſſembly*, as anticonſtitutional, if not *unjuſt* and *unlawful*; though they have the Sanction of Cuſtom; and that, for the following, among many other, obvious Reaſons.

IN the *Quarter Aſſemblies*, the ſeveral *Corporations* are ſummoned to ſend their *Repreſentatives* to the COMMON COUNCIL. By which the Spirits and Attention of the Citizens are raiſed: They have an Opportunity of *inſtructing* their *Repreſentatives* how to act, and of *attending* in the Court of *Darein Hundred*, to prevent Surpriſe; by prohibiting all unjuſt, or illicit Acts.

BUT,

BUT, in our modern *Poſt-Aſſemblies*, the Summons is *private* and *perſonal*, and generally, at a *ſhort Warning*. The Citizens know nothing of it; unleſs by Accident. And the Acts of the Day are, of late, never ſubmitted to the Judgment of the Citizens, in the Court of *Darein Hundred*.

BESIDES, there have been Inſtances where the Summons have been, but *partially* made, to ſuch, as were prepared to fulfil the Intentions of their good *God-fathers* in the *Conclave*.

As a Proof of this melancholy Truth, look back into your wretched Records, and you will find, that all your *unjuſt* and *injurious Contracts*, *unequal* and *clandeſtine Purchaſes*, *ſiniſter* and *deſtructive Leaſes*, *fulſome* and *falſe Addreſſes*, and *illicit* and *oppreſſive By-Laws*, have all been made and paſſed in *packed Poſt-Aſſemblies*.

MOREOVER, remember, the *Cardinals*, who have had you called together, have always time to prepare and lay their *deepeſt*, *darkeſt* and *moſt Jeſuitical Schemes*, unknown to you; and they, then, call you together, to give *Sanction* to ſome of the *few* Tranſactions, they have not yet preſumed to perform without, at leſt, the *Appearance* of a *Common-Council*.

HENCE, judge what is, in general, to be thought of *Poſt-Aſſemblies*. At beſt, they are not conſtitutional, as generally convoked and exerciſed. And they muſt always be dangerous, as the purport of their meeting can only be known to the *chief Cardinals*, who take the neceſſary time to prepare and document their *Minions* to perpetrate the *dark deſigns* of their *Maſters*.

HAD you been now called together for the Affairs of any *private Perſon*, I ſhould have been *leſs alarmed*, *leſs attentive*, *leſs watchful*: For, there would have been *leſs danger*. But, when you are called upon, to *ratify* any *Contract*, made by the *Conclave*, or a *few* of their *Creatures* in a *Committee*; or FEWER of the *Creatures* of their *Creatures*, in that unheard of *ſham Council*, called, a *Sub-Committee*, who can be *ſilent*, that is not *ſupine*, or *inſenſible*?

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I do not want a juſt Opinion of the Integrity and good Intentions of the preſent Commons. But, as the *Cardinals* take Care to keep all experienced Citizens, that ever dared to oppoſe their Meaſures, out of the *Council*; I muſt confeſs, I have no ſmall Fears from *their approved Subtilty* and *your known Inexperience*.

And, as for the *Alderman*, for whoſe Purpoſe you are to be ſhortly convoked, I want not due Regard for him, in his private Capacity; but, in his public, or political, as an *Aldermvn*, I can never think a Commoner, or Citizen can be too cautious in dealing with him.

I understand you are called to meet To-morrow, to perfect a Leaſe of the *Tolls* and *Cuſtoms*, or both, to an *Alderman*.

Now, whether this *Alderman*'s Propoſals, at preſent, appear juſt and advantageous, or the contrary, I can not take upon me to ſay. But, whether or no; I think you can not, conſiſtently, ſuffer an *Alderman* to be a *Tenant* to the *Corporation*: For this, there are many plain, evident Reaſons: They have always too great a Sway in the *Council*, to be called to Account: And, by their Influence, may *alienate*, or *deſtroy* that *chief branch* of your Revenue, whenever it is ſettled upon one of the *Board*.

It is always neceſſary and juſt Policy to prevent *Governors* being *Tenants* to a *Corporation*. For want of paying due Regard to this wiſe Maxim; the City Eſtate and Revenues have already been *diſmembered*, by the *Cardinals*; many of whoſe *Offspring* now enjoy *Lordly* Eſtates, ſurreptitiouſly taken from *that* of this poor City.

Take warning from the *great Alderman* of *conſcious Innocence*, who is Tenant to the *Blue-Coat Hoſpital*, againſt a *poſitive Precept*, in the *Charter*.---But, what are *Charters*, *Precepts*, or *Laws* to *Cardinals*; when *Cardinals*, or Giants are the *Judges*!---See how many hundred Pounds this Man of *Conſular Dignity* owes, and yet, *juſtly*, refuſes to pay the Corporation, a ſingle Farthing?——What cares he?--His *conſcious Innocence*,

and

and his, no leſs *guiltleſs*, *Brethren* of the *Conclave*, powerfully protect him.

It is ten to one I ſhall have a *ſmart*, *cunning* Letter, to aſk, whom I here mean? Which I may expect to ſee in print; to ſhew that *Aldermen* can write, now a Days. To obviate which; KNOW all Men by theſe Preſents, that I mean the *worſhipful Gentleman*, who calls himſelf, Alderman Nathaniel Kane, *Author*, or *Editor* of *The Genuine Letters* between *Alderman Kane* and *Charles Lucas*.——But, of this more hereafter.——To return then;

For the above Reaſons, with many more, too obvious to require reciting; I hope you will never permit an *Alderman* to be a *Tenant* to the *Corporation*.

I am not inſenſible, that the Tolls and Cuſtoms, or what are left of them, by your *good Friends*, the *Honorable Mr. Juſtice Yorke*, and the *Right Honorable Thomas Carter*, *Eſq*; require being put under ſome uſeful Regulation. They are, at preſent next to being in the Hands of *Aldermen*, collected by *their Relations* and *Creatures*. I ſhould be well pleaſed, the Revenue of all the Gates were let; but, not to any one Man, though he were an *Alderman*, or a Giant. If you purpoſe to let them, let them by the Gate; not more, than one, or two, to one Man.

I remember a Scheme once offered, for increaſing the Tolls and Cuſtoms by a very ſenſible Citizen, and rejected by the *Conclave*, as unreaſonable.

He propoſed eſtimating the annual income of the Gates, upon a *Medium*, for any ſeven Years. He was willing to let the largeſt Computation be the Standard. He did not deſire to have the putting in, or removing a Collector, or Servant; nor the receiving, or handling a Penny of the Money; but, that it ſhould all be paid, in the uſual manner, into the Hands of the City Treaſurer. He would, then, lay his Schemes for raiſing the Revenue, at great Expence of Time and Treaſure, ſolely to himſelf; and only deſired, that he might have one *Moiety* of the increaſe, for a Term of Seven Years, for his Trouble.

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THE only objection publicly made to this was, *that he might get too much by it.* And ſo, rather, than a *Citizen* ſhould gain one, or two hundred pounds a Year, more, or leſs; the *Conclave* would have the City loſe ſo much!———But, now, the true Reaſon appears: The Place was fitter for an *Alderman*, than a *Commoner*, or *Citizen*. So an *Alderman* muſt be prefered by the *Conclave!*

COMPARE this with the *Alderman*'s Propoſal and ſee which is moſt Advantageous and ſafe. If the later, you can not juſtly deny this Citizen the Benefit of his Propoſal.

Do not imagine I am ſolliciting a Favor for a *Friend:* I principally mean to promote the Intereſt of the City; at the ſame Time, that I would do Juſtice to the *worſt*, though the moſt *cauſeleſs*, *Enemy*, I have.

GIVE me Leave, MY FRIENDS, to inform you, that there are Matters of much greater Moment, that will come properly under your Conſideration, in this *Aſſembly.*

BY the Death of *Alderman Pearſon*, which, by the Reports of his *Brethren*, and their *ſolliciting* for, or *diſpoſing* of his Employments; ſeems certain; three moſt important Places become vacant; which you have the Right and Power to fill. I mean the Place of an *Alderman*, that of *Receiver-General* of the City Revenues, and the SEAT in PARLEMENT.

BESIDES, there is an other *Alderman*'s Place actually, vacant; or, elſe you have but *one Sherif.* And as *both Sherifs* are but *one*, in the Eye of the Law; you can hold no *Aſſembly*, if *one* be an *Alderman.*

THIS is eaſily determined, by aſking your *Sherifs*, if either of them be an *Aldermen?* If you are anſwered in the *Negative*, you have two indiſputable Vacancies, at the Board; if in the *Affirmative*, the *Alderman Sherif* is to quit the Houſe, for, by the *New Rules*, no *Alderman* can ſit with the *Commons*; ſo your Aſſembly is void.

BUT, as I preſume you will be anſwered in the *Negative*; it is your Duty to procede to the Election

of

of an *Alderman*, or two, directly. This, in ſpight to all that oppoſed you, will bring the Merits of the Cauſe, to an immediate Trial: For, it muſt, then, be determined, in whom the Right of electing *Aldermen* reſides.

THE next ſtep is to chooſe a *Receiver General*. This is an Office of the utmoſt Conſequence to the City. And nothing could be more happy, then electing one, in the Intereſt of the *Commons* and *Citizens*: For, he muſt beſt know the State of the Lands and Revenues of the Corporation, and may inform you of many Matters of the utmoſt Conſequence to be made public; which, by the *Aldermen* and their *Creatures*, will ever be kept Secret.

IN all theſe Attempts, you may expect every kind of Oppoſition. But, remember your *Duty!* remember your *Oaths!*—If you can look upon yourſelves, as *pliant Slaves*, *ſervile Creatures* of the *Cardinals*; you are to ſit together like ſo many *muzzled Aſſes*, and do nothing, but what your *Task maſters bid*, or *permit* you. But, on the Contrary, if you look upon yourſelves, as the *choſen Repreſentatives* of the *Citizens*, and bound by the moſt *Solemn Obligations*, to promote the Honor and Intereſt of your *Conſtituents*, in all Points; you *can do nothing*, till you recover and eſtabliſh theſe *fundamental Privileges*; without *tacitly*, *Slaviſhly*, *perfidiouſly* yielding and ſubmitting to the *lawleſs Tyranny* of *Uſurpers*. And thus you prove yourſelves FREE and FAITHFULL REPRESENTATIVES, or *ſervile Tools*, and *Perjured Slaves!*

BUT, of this you give a further, the great Proof, in your CHOICE of a *Member* to *repreſent* you in PARLEMENT.

To enable you to judge aright and to elect freely, and upon juſt Principles, I have already taken ſome Pains.

IN my Addreſſes to you, I have traced the Conſtitution of our Country, from the firſt Inſtitution of Civil Society, to the Preſent happy Eſtabliſhment. And ſhewed the ſtrength and weakneſs of the Great *Body Politic*.

I SHALL

I SHALL, in like manner trace out and explane the Conſtitution of the City, and ſhew the ſeveral *Breaches* made therein, and by *whom*; as ſoon, as I can publiſh The GREAT CHARTER, which has coſt me much time and Labor; and which is now in the Preſs.

THEN I ſhall endeavor to explane more fully, the *Office* and *neceſſary Qualifications* of a *Member* of *Parlement*, together with the *Duty* and *Qualification* of ELECTORS, and *returning Officers*.

BY this means, I hope to be able to put thoſe, who have not had equal Opportunity, nor taken the like pains, with me, in ſuch like Reſearches; into a juſt and rational Method of *judging* of, and *electing* the Perſons moſt fit for their Purpoſes.

DO you, MY FRIENDS and FELLOW-CITIZENS, keep yourſelves FREE, *abſolutely diſengaged* from *Promiſes*. If there be any among you, who have heretofore been led, inadvertently, to bind yourſelves by *Promiſes* to *vote* for any *one* Man; remember, you have an other *Vote*; and ſure the only *Attonement*, you can make the publick, the only *Satisfaction* you can give yourſelves, for that *miſtake*, or *Proſtitution*, is to give the *other Vote*, as your unbiaſſed Conſciences direct.

FAREWELL! And do me the Juſtice to believe me,

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MY BEST BELOVED BRETHREN and FRIENDS,

moſt truly,

moſt ſincerely,

Yours

DUBLIN, May 11th, 1749.

C. Lucas.